DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 116 667 IR 002 911

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TITLE Books and Libraries at the University of Kansas; 13:1, Fall 1975.
INSTITUTION Kansas Univ., Lawrence. Univ. Libraries.
PUB DATE 75
NOTE 9p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Books; *Citation Indexes; Energy; Information Sources; Libraries; *Library Acquisition; Social Sciences; Spanish; Spanish Literature
IDENTIFIERS Latin America; Social Science Citation Index; SSCI

ABSTRACT

The Fall, 1975, edition of "Books and Libraries at the University of Kansas" contains three informative articles. The first is a description of a bibliographer's book buying trip in Latin America, the bargains she struck, and the finds she made. In the second article a law librarian discusses "The Old Yellow Book," a 1975 translation and commentary of a 17th century Roman murder trial upon which Robert Browning's poem, "The Ring and the Book," is based. The "Social Science Citation Index" (SSCI) is the subject of the third article, in which comment is made upon SSCI's uses, coverage, and value as a research tool. There is also a short item describing sources of energy information. (LS)

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ED116667

Books and Libraries at the University of Kansas

13:1

Fall 1975

Lawrence

LA PEREGRINACIÓN BIBLIOGRÁFICA: NOTES ON A BIBLIOGRAPHER'S TRIP TO GUATEMALA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

Engraving of Antonio Nariño from Papel Periodico Ilustrado

Building a strong research collection can be achieved by staying at home and persistently writing letters, reading journals, checking catalogs and ordering books, but the process is quicker, cheaper and produces better results when frequent personal contact is made with the publisher, the antiquarian book dealer and the collector. Subject bibliographers and especially area specialists rely on the collecting trip to discover new material, to find long-sought-after titles, and to disentangle the snarls that inevitably arise as they try to acquire material from distant places through the mails. This article describes the trip which Bill Brow and I made to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia and Venezuela last May and June. Rather than give a country by country, hour by hour, or book by book account of the trip, I would like to describe my objectives for the trip and their implementation. Most area bibliographers function in more or less the same fashion, so perhaps this article will also help clarify what a "bibliographer" in a university library does.

Only occasionally, and probably no more frequently than any other librarian, does a bibliographer compile a bibliography. A more exact description of the bibliographer should include all the following titles: buyer of books, beggar of books; searcher for special titles or sets; collection builder; trader of duplicates; decoder of the bibliographic mysteries of the publishing world (and of the unpublished world); and worrier. Bibliographers are hired especially to worry about whether a book, journal or piece of information will be available in the

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library when a student or faculty member needs it. Since university libraries can never obtain everything needed, judgment and selectivity are required to assess existing circumstances and circumstances that are likely to exist 20, 50 or 100 years from now. But since few bibliographers are prophets, we primarily worry about next semester, next year and the next five years.

Collecting trips for the University of Kansas Libraries are made much easier and more efficient because it is possible to take along a computer printout of the present holdings of serials published in an individual country or group of countries. The Library's computer list of its serial holdings contains basic information about the status of each title, how each publication is acquired, which issues are owned and which are lacking. The list can be sorted by computer to produce a list according to country of origin or language of the journal. In this case I took two lists prepared by the Serials Department--one for Central America and one for northern South America. In all four of the countries I visited I was able, by checking these serial lists, to turn up entirely new journals or missing numbers for ones we already hold. Statistical yearbooks, bank publications and memorias of government agencies would turn up in unexpected places. Such publications are of great interest to social scientists and historians, but since they go out of print very quickly they are very difficult to obtain. In Bogotá, at an outdoor book fair, a used book dealer was selling some at 5 pesos each or six for 25 pesos--about 15 cents each. When purchased through a dealer, who must spend time locating them, these types of materials sell for as much as $20.00 each in the United States. In a situation where there is less demand, they can be purchased for less than it costs to mail them home.

In some informal situations--such as the sidewalk book kiosks of Bogotá--a persistent bibliographer can, with the proper show of boredom or disinterestedness, bargain good prices down to extremely good prices. (Bargaining also takes a certain lack of concern for time. This is hard to feign, for time presses very hard on the traveling bibliographer. The list of people to see, agencies to visit and addresses to check out is much longer than can be covered in one or two weeks.) My most successful attempt at bargaining was at a kiosk on Calle 19, which had seven volumes of the Argentine journal Crítica from the 1930's. Bill and I staged a heated family discussion about what we could afford, dramatically counted our pesos and decided we couldn't purchase it. Our family financial "drama" produced an effect which allowed us to purchase the seven volumes for 700 pesos ($21.00), 300 pesos less than the original offer. Since there was little time for recreation, bibliographic forays of this type had to satisfy. We often felt like the Bonnie and Clyde of the Latin American book scene, hurrying into an agency, then out again minutes later with our arms full of fat tomes.

For the bibliographer, for whom language competency is so large a part of the stock-in-trade, a big part of the "fun" of a trip is being back in contact with the real language: listening, explaining, asking, bargaining, discussing. The book buying trip is an educational "trip" for the librarian. Contact with the spoken language is only a part of that, although it is an extremely important part. The cultural milieu, the ideas people are concerned with, the new books and journals being read, the U.S. and European books being translated and read--a heightened awareness of all these makes it possible for the bibliographer to do a more realistic job when back in the library trying to forsee what will be needed by students and faculty in years to come.

Prior to the trip an extensive desiderata file was carefully prepared and checked against the Library's holdings. Faculty suggestions, standard bibliographies and orders previously cancelled by dealers were used as the basis for the file. This gave me the very

strong advantage of being able to drop in on publishers or agencies and tell them exactly what we needed. At the Academia Nacional de Historia in Caracas I spent about five minutes talking with a secretary and left a list of the numbers of their Biblioteca series which we lacked. The secretary was blasé and indicated that most of the series was out of print. Three months later packages began to arrive from Caracas. When the dust cleared we found that we had received, at no cost, 80 volumes, which would have cost approximately $1,200 had they been purchased from a deeler in the United States. We will, of course, attempt to reciprocate with an offer of some of our duplicates. Not all efforts produced such spectacular results. Usually the desiderata file served as a check for those times when we laboriously sorted through stacks of old publications in used book dealers' collections. An afternoon of patiently looking at dusty shelves could produce unusual treasures--or sometimes just a sore neck and back from looking sideways at the shelves. In San José, in Costa Rica's only used book store, El Erial, Bill and I spent a day and a half working our way through a heap of Central American books that included some unusual old decrees and broadsides published as early as 1843. Finding something "Special" is always a test of self control since any obvious show of elation might tend to drive the price up unnecessarily.

PROTESTA

que hace el Gobierno Supremo del Estado de Honduras contra la ocupacion que de parte de su territorio, en el litoral del norte, se ha verificado por tropas del Gobierno ingles, como protector de la llamada Nacion Mosquita.

Cover title of a 1 page statement by the government of Honduras on Jan. 6, 1848. Purchased in San José, Costa Rica, June 1975.

The search for the new and unusual publication is a constant challenge and requires a sharp eye, insatiable curiosity, and readily available loose change to pay quickly for a publication on street corners or in such undignified situations as leaning out of the window of a bus as it stops for a red light. Persistence is also frequently called for if the bibliographer is to accomplish anything at all. A seemingly simple attempt to buy the back issues of Razón y Fábula and to set up a subscription took nearly a whole afternoon at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá (altitude: 10,000 ft.). I climbed the four flights of stairs to the editor's office: she was not in. I was sent back to the main floor to the bookstore to purchase the back issues. Finding the back issues involved looking through stacks of issues in a remote corner of the store. When I went back upstairs to place the subscription order no one was there, but I was told by a secretary in a neighboring office to return in half an hour. Back downstairs to purchase titles at the bookstore while I waited. Then back upstairs. Still no one there. I wandered around the building and finally bumped into the person I needed to see. In order to place a subscription, I needed to pay the cashier downstairs. The cashier needed exact change. Off to find change and back again. Back upstairs with the receipt. Back downstairs to a closet to look for other back issues. We ended up with a hard-won collection of all but two numbers of the back issues, a current subscription to Razón y Fábula and a well-exercised bibliographer. After a challenging experience like that it's easier to understand why a simple letter sometimes fails to produce results. Persistence was also necessary to obtain an elegant facsimile reprint of the nineteenth century publication, Papel Periodico Illustrado, which was not for sale to the public. Carvajal & Cia

published volume one of the five volume set and will continue to publish the set, volume by volume, until they have completed all five volumes. They intended it to be a gift to friends of the company and are being careful to keep it out of the commercial book market. After braving several scowling secretaries, I was excorted into the office of Sr. Albert Vásquez O., publicity director of the company. When I explained my mission, he graciously presented me with a copy for the University of Kansas Libraries and put us on the mailing list to receive the four subsequent volumes. We are now fortunate to have the original in Spencer Research Library as well as volume I of the facsimile in Watson.

The total effect of the buying trip is still not measurable, for material continues to arrive. Not all of the trip's value can be measured in terms of quantity of titles acquired or value of material obtained. Our quality of work is improved by the direct contact with Latin America, the University is publicized in distant places, our respect and affection for Latin American colleagues is heightened, and the collection is built in a context that more closely matches the reality of Latin America.

Ellen Brow
Latin American Bibliographer

THE NEW OLD YELLOW BOOK: A LAWYER'S EDITION

Going through the law collection book by book during the classification project has had some unexpected rewards. Occasionally a volume long neglected in the stacks will emerge as being of unusual and timely interest. Surely John Marshall Gest's translation and commentary on The Old Yellow Book, published in 1925, could be counted as one of these. The source of Browning's poem, The Ring and the Book, the Old Yellow Book gave a remarkably complete account of a murder trial held in Rome in 1698. It was a collection of pamphlets which were the lawyers' briefs, arguments, and citations for the trial. Also included were the depositions of the witnesses and some letters of the various parties. The documentation revealed a case soundly based on the authorities of medieval criminal law and on the legal practices current at that time in Rome and in other Italian cities.

Criminal jurisprudence was not really one of Browning's compelling interests. Had it been so, he still would have faced enormous difficulties in precisely translating the material found in the Old Yellow Book. In the first place, although it is in Latin (except for the depositions, which are in Italian), it is not the classical Latin Browning would have

known, but the highly technical and specialized Latin used by lawyers in all of the European countries where law had evolved from Roman law.

Moreover legal terms were not usually included in the general Latin lexicons. The citations posed even more of a translation problem. Not at all like modern law citations, which are very concise and specific, these would have a chapter number from a commentary on the Corpus Juris, for example, and then the first sentence from the section being cited. Small wonder that Browining decided not to translate the citations at all and to anglicize rather than translate many of the legal terms. He was then in no position to treat the legal arguments very carefully, even had that been his intention. It is Gest's view that Browning's treatment of the lawyers in the case is very far from historical:--that lawyers are portrayed in The Ring and the Book as a subtle and coldhearted tribe, more interested in the workings of the law than in the interest of their clients, a characterization which the documents of the Old Yellow Book do not bear out.

On first reading The Ring and the Book, Gest, who was himself a lawyer, was bothered by the gaps in the case as Browning presented it. He had no way of examining the original source, however, until 1908, when a facsimile edition of the Old Yellow Book was published, together with an annotated translation by Charles Hodell. Hodell followed Browning's procedure in omitting translations of legal citations, clearly stating these to be beyond the scope of his work. As Gest read and compared the original with the translation he concluded that a valuable legal source was being wasted. He set out to uncover not only the factual, historical story as it occurred, but also to trace all the citations to their original sources and to uncover as much information as he possibly could about the law and the lawyers of that time. Gest wanted to show that, far from being contemptible, the lawyers involved in Browning's murder case were highly respected and skillful professional men. The result is a work of very careful scholarship which presents these ideas in a clear and highly readable fashion as well as explaining unfamiliar usages of the civil law.

The case concerned the trial of one Guido Franeschini and his accomplices for the murder of Guido's young wife, Pompilia, and her parents, the Comparini. There was no question as to guilt since Guido and accomplices had confessed. The lawyers for the defense pleaded extenuating circumstances. Pompilia had eloped with a young canon, (not a priest, as Browning would have him) and had born a child of doubtful paternity. Moreover, the Comparini had schemed against Guido from the first, and had even brought an action against him to recover the dowry. Pompilia had sued for a separation. The birth of the child was apparently the last straw for Guido. He left for Rome immediately upon hearing of it and committed his crime eight days later. The trial was in the regular criminal court and the criminal law was in effect.

Both the prosecuting attorneys and the two attorneys for the defense were state officials. Seemingly very much like modern Public Defenders, the latter were called the Advocat of the Poor and the Procurator of the Poor. A third official, the Procurator of Charity, had duties which overlapped those of the Procurator of the Poor and which included specific responsiblity for the well being of prisoners. Pompilia had been put in his charge upon her arrest for elopement--then considered a crime. After her death the Procurator of Charity was charged with clearing Pompilia's name in order to defend her heir from a claim on the estate by the convent to which she had been confined after the elopement trial. This put the Procurator in an awkward position since his official colleagues were arguing that Pompilia's guilt was an excuse for Guido's crime. He therefore insisted on a postponement of the estate proceedings in order not to prejudice his colleagues' case. As Gest points out, the prosecuting attorneys were in a similar dilemma. It had been their duty during the elopement trial to show that Pompilia was guilty of adultery: their case in the murder trial was seemingly dependent on an innocent, virtuous Pompilia. The attorneys were, as Gest sees it, merely doing their duty by presenting whatever evidence they could find in favor of their arguments: it was the job of the judge to evaluate the evidence and to determine the pertinence of the arguments. Gest concludes that Pompilia's virtue was not, in fact, the vital question which it seems--Pompilia was

plainly guilty, but the murder charge held because of the long delay between the crime of the wife and the crime of the husband.

In his edition of The Old Yellow Book, Mr. Gest offers us even more than scholarship and a clear style. For him the persons and events of this case and the laws which governed them were very real. He brings them to life for the reader in a work which provides a stimulating insight into another time and world--that of the law.

Sally Casad
Catalog Librarian
Law Library

NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY INFORMATION

Research in energy interests engineers, physicists, chemists, geologists, architects, and many social scientists. To support this research the library has acquired over the years numerous publications including such journals as Energy Conversion, Energy Policy, Energy Review, Energy Sources, Power, Power Engineering, and Solar Energy. In the last few years several important reference works have appeared which provide access to the interdisciplinary publications devoted to energy and draw together information on energy previously accessible only through the tools of specific disciplines. The first volume of Energy Index is "a selected guide to energy information covering material published during 1970-1973." This index promises to be a yearly publication. The first issue of Engineering Abstracts, a monthly publication of Engineering Index, appeared in April 1974. It is self-described as "transdisciplinary" and is a key to efficient searches for articles in the field. For the latest information on organizations involved in energy the Energy Directory, providing access both by organization and subject, is available. These reference works, located in Marvin Library, should ease the burden of researchers working in this highly multi-disciplinary field.

William W. Deacon
Assistant Science Librarian
Marvin Library

OF SSCI, SCI & ESP

Occult Sciences? Psychic Phenomena? Extrasensory Perception? Which indexes in Watson's Reference Room use which of these terms to cite articles on Psychic Research? What related terms are used by the same indexes? Many a tired researcher has wished for a bit of "ESP" while stumbling along the mazes of index terminology. For those souls who are tired of such games the Reference Room now has an index called Social Science Citation Index, (SSCI) which provides an alternative approach to literature searching.

To use SSCI the searcher need only know the name of one author in his field. Armed with, say, the name J. D. Krumboltz, a noted behavioural psychologist, he can look in the citation section of SSCI and find a list (rather abbreviated) of the books and journals in which Krumboltz has published the results of his research over a period of years. (Full bibliographic information on these works is given in the source index section of SSCI.) Below each reference will be a list of the articles in which the Krumboltz publication has been cited recently. If the territory is unfamiliar and no names come to mind he can begin by turning to the "permuterm" subject section, which links pairs of key words from the titles of books and articles to their authors' names. By looking under "behavioral" and "techniques" in the permuterm subject section of the 1973 SSCI, for instance, he can supply himself with the names of Krumboltz, Eisler and Ardila, then proceed to the citation section. Having located several articles which cite Krumboltz the searcher can also mine the bibliographies of these for other entries into the citation index--a process, known as "cycling", which can be repeated indefinitely.

There are, of course, other possible uses for SSCI besides finding ones way to research articles around subject heading blocks. Some of these possibilities have been explored by the users of Science Citation Index, the index on which SSCI is patterned. In fact the appearance in 1961 of SCI stirred up a good deal of controversy about the proper uses of citation indexes. Historically citation indexing has been used almost exclusively by lawyers, who depend on such sources as Shepard's Citations, published since the 1890's, for the essential task of tracing legal precedents. Scientists, long envious of these tools, were hampered in developing similar ones by the lack of a standard citation form as well as by some doubt that the patterns of research in the sciences formed a sufficiently solid base on which to build citation indexes. Citation form has indeed proved to be a persistent problem: inconsistencies in the way authors' names are listed and in abbreviations used for journals are carried over into the computer-produced citation indexes. More disturbing are the lingering doubts about whether scholars writing in journals indexed by SCI and SSCI will always be aware of and will cite most of the relevant research. Much of the debate over the uses to which these indexes have been put hangs on this question and on whether or not the selection of indexed journals is sufficient and well-informed.

Particularly controversial is the use of citation index counts to assess the value of the work of a particular researcher--a use which has been proposed as an aid to search committees, promotion and tenure committees, the dispensers of research grants, etc. One rather striking experiment has been done using sampling techniques to predict successfully that several Nobel Prize winners would emerge from a group of fifty frequently cited authors. However, making value judgements about a scholar based on his notariety as demonstrated by a citation index can have a number of pitfalls: besides the scattering which occurs in indexes because of listings under several forms of a name, there's the problem of the time lag between the publication of research results and recognition of the importance of the research, a factor which can vary considerably from one field to another depending on the efficiency of communication channels. In social science disciplines, as in the sciences, an injudicious use of citation counts might also prove an undeserved boon to the sowers of contention or to researchers whose indiscretions are cited as cautionary tales by other scholars. Coverage of the fifty or so fields included in SSCI is somewhat uneven according to some users, another factor which should be considered before resorting to citation counting as a measure of value. In general those fields which fall as much in humanities as in social science, e.g. history and philosophy, seem to be less well represented. (Fields with the best representation are psychology with about 170 journals indexed in SSCI and education with some 150 journals.)

A less troubled question is the use of citation indexing as a tool in tracing the history of ideas. Several studies have used SCI to graph the influences, direct and indirect, of scientists on one another. Eugene Garfield, the editor of SCI, found that the citation network shows that Mendel's pioneering work in genetics, long believed to have been ignored until 1900, was cited by at least four different people before that date. Garfield went on to trace historical dependencies in the discovery of the DNA code and succeeded in finding more of these than were identified in Asimov's historic study, "The Genetic Code." (A comparison of the network produced by the citation study and that of Asimov shows that about two-thirds of the items in Asimov's bibliography are common to both.) Citation indexes would seem to be a useful tool, if not the only one, for tracing historical dependencies.

Still other uses for citation indexes will no doubt be found as people from many disciplines become aware of them. In the meantime they offer literature searchers a welcome alternative to traditional subject indexes while providing some encouragement of cross pollination between fields.

N. B. The editor of Books and Libraries tells me that she is not ambitious to have Books and Libraries become a "source" journal for SSCI. Nevertheless this author feels she should admit to some obligation to others for much of the information in this article.

The article cited below provided the starting point for "a good read" on citation indexing and its uses and abuses. Readers who must have their reading flavored with footnotes are advised, in the manner of all good Shandians, to take up the bibliography of Mss. Miller and Truesdell's opus 'n salt and pepper to their own taste.

Miller, Elizabeth and Eugenia Truesdell, "Citation Indexing: History and Applications," in Drexel Library Quarterly. vol. 8, no. 2, April 1972, pp. 159-172.

Barbara Jones
Associate Reference Librarian

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Fall Meeting of the Friends was held on Friday, October 10th. After dinner at the Eldridge House, members and their guests made their way to the Kenneth Spencer Research Library for a special "Open House" program. The featured attractions were working demonstrations of papermaking, printing and binding, descriptions of conservation techniques, including the photographic laboratory, and tours and views of some of the treasures of the collections of historical maps, manuscripts, printed books, and Kansas historical materials. It was an unusual opportunity to see a little about a lot of things in a short time. Judging by the great interest expressed many of the guests can be expected to return for a more leisurely look at the Spencer Research Library and its collections. They will be most welcome.

NEW LIBRARIANS

Ellen H. Brow is the newly appointed Latin American Bibliographer. In addition to a master's degree in library science Ms. Brow has an M.A. in history. She is in the process of completing a Ph.D. in history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She comes to KU from a position as Ibero-American Reference/Catalog Librarian at the University of New Mexico.

Richard Gilbar is a new librarian in the Reference Department. Mr. Gilbar is a graduate of the University of Michigan, from which he holds degrees in ancient Near Eastern studies and in library science. Mr. Gilbar is presently working on an M.Ed. in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Also a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Library Science is Ann Hagedorn, who joined the staff of Special Collections this summer. Ms. Hagedorn has a B.A. in history from Denison University and is presently working on an M.A. in history at the University of Kansas.

Marianne Griffin is the Reference Librarian in charge of interlibrary loan borrowing while Georgann Eglinski is on a year's leave. A graduate of Boston College, from which she holds an M.A. in history, Ms. Griffin is not new to this campus. She held the posts of Library Assistant in charge of the Engineering Library and of Clerk III in charge of interlibrary loan lending before receiving her M.L.S. from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES is issued three times annually from the Office of the Director of Libraries, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045. Editors: Georgann Eglinski and Barbara Jones.